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HITS LAG IN COAL, STEEL PRODUCTION;
FAIL TO RECRUIT MINERS

BLAME POOR MANAGEMENT, LACK OF COOPERATION -- Budapest, Nepszava, 26 Aug 51

Despite over-all outstanding production results, quotas for the coal, open-hearth steel, and construction materials industries were not met. In many shops, semifinished products were labeled "finished" in an effort to reach the quotas. A number of excuses were offered by factory managers to explain the lagging output: summer heat, manpower shortage, and dearth of raw materials. However, the truth is that their allegations are false. Actually, poor management by directors who are reluctant to assume responsibilities are to be blamed for production delays. Other causes are faulty organization of the work and lack of coordination between the various shops.

In many instances, lack of manpower is used as a subterfuge for inadequate utilization of the existing labor force. Of course, there are some manpower problems, such as in the coal mining and construction industries, but this is not the principal contributing factor to lags in output. In other industries, especially in machine-tool building experience shows that speed-ups at the end of the month to meet the quotas are preceded by loafing and idleness in the first part of the month. For example, work discipline at the MAVAG (Hungarian State Iron, Steel, and Machine Works) is lax; each month, 360 employees report late for work; the number of persons on sick leave is unjustifiably high, and disorganization prevails resulting in the loss of thousands of man-hours.

Although there are shortages of material in certain industries, they cannot be regarded as the principal cause for the lagging output. Lack of cooperation within the shops and with other factories, as well as faulty organization, is the real reason for the delays rather than the shortage of materials. A typical example of work disorganization occurred at the BAMERT (Mining Machinery Enterprise), where the management tried to procure a certain material without knowing that it could be obtained from its own stockroom. The management of the forge shop of the Matyas Rakosi Works learned that shortage of materials can be eliminated by better work organization.

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In other industries, delays can be attributed -- from the ministries down to the shops -- to outmoded leadership, lack of individual responsibility, and toleration of work disorganization. In this respect, the work of the party organizations, of the Association of Working Youth, and the trade unions is inadequate. Other contributing factors are the often contradictory regulations and lack of stern discipline.

The Ministry of Metallurgy and Machine Industry has issued decrees for the reduction of foundry rejects and for the improvement of products, but execution of these resolutions was often ineffective. As a result, the ratio of foundry rejects is still high, and is on the increase in many shops. Efforts at successful production are hindered by interminable organizational and reorganizational plans. For example, plans by the hundred were drawn for the construction work of the Hejocsaba cement factory. Lack of individual responsibility is manifest also at the Lang Machine Works, where the management has no control over the production and even the shop foremen are ignorant of the results of their own plans.

These occurrences, coupled with the bureaucratic management of work competitions, are the principal causes for lagging output of the various shops.

REVEALS LAG IN METALLURGY -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 16 Sep 51

In the first 10 day of September 1951, the Diosgyor and Ozd foundries met only 94.1 and 94 percent of their pig-iron quotas, respectively. The lag in molten steel production was even more serious, and quotas for milled finished products of the foundries have not been met either.

One of the principal reasons for the lag is that the foundries have not learned enough from Soviet metallurgy. As Amashov, the noted Soviet metallurgist, pointed out during his visit to Hungary a few months ago, Hungarian foundry workers fail to give proper care to the furnaces. As a result, they are frequently out of order.

Improvement of work organization is another serious problem of Hungarian metallurgy. Currently, there is confusion in the preparation of materials, and protracted waiting for scrap iron. Maintenance of installations is also badly organized, and lack of coordination is manifest in many foundries. Not infrequently, there are four or five simultaneous tappings coupled with a disorderly search for drums and cranes, resulting in the prolongation of the entire operation and impairment of the quality of the steel.

In August 1951, in the Ozd foundry 106 hours were wasted because of the unsystematic repair of the furnaces; 25 hours were lost waiting for scrap iron; 109 hours of work stoppage was caused by the congestion of the foundries; and the cranes were out of order for 53 hours. In July, 795 production hours were lost at Diosgyor. Production of the foundries is further impaired by the lack of coordination between the various shops, whose workers neglect to exchange experiences and refuse to help each other.

Lack of planning and disorderly and unsystematic production cannot be tolerated any longer, and responsibility of the individual worker has to be emphasized. Some workers have achieved outstanding successes, but quite often the spirit of initiation is hindered by bureaucracy. In this respect, the trade unions have to bear the major share of responsibility, because they failed to fulfill their most important task: organizations of work competition. Improvement of the spirit of competition is imperative.

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